

Application No.: 09/637,923
Filing Date: August 14, 2000

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Prior to the present amendment, Claims 1-62 stood pending in the application. Claims 8-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve their right to pursue the subject matter of any and/or all of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 1, 28, 29, 31, 38, 39 and 49 are currently amended. These amendments are based on suggestions provided by the Examiner, and to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-12 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,104,959. Claims 8-19 have been cancelled to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,595,568). Although Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's assertions that Anderson anticipates Claims 20-27, to facilitate prosecution, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2

Claims 1-7, 28-41, and 49-51 are rejected as indefinite. Claims 1, 28, 29, 31, 38, 39, and 49 have been amended, as noted above to clarify the antecedent basis of certain claim terms. Applicant submits that the amendments address the Examiner's concerns, and requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 42-48 and 52-56.

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Petition to Revive Application Abandoned Unintentionally

Enclosed is a petition to revive application abandoned unintentionally under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137 (b). Applicant respectfully requests that the petition be granted and the present amendment be considered.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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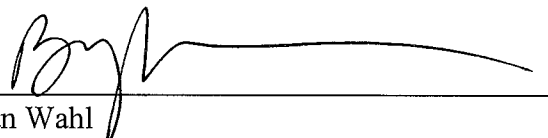
Conclusion

For the reasons presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same. If any issues remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the number provided below in order to resolve such issues promptly. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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